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Workshops

Fraternal Relations

ISLAM: SURRENDER TO GOD'S WILL

- 1) Appendix A - Demographics of Islam
- 2) " B - Islam, Faith in Action
- 3) " C - The Ninety-Nine Beautiful Names of Allah
- 4) " D - Conquests and History of Islam
- 5) " E - The Sufi Movement
- 6) " F - Bibliography

"O Lord!

If I worship you from fear of Hell, cast me into Hell.

If I worship you from desire of Paradise, deny me Paradise."

Rabia

Salih of Qazwin taught his disciples:

'Whoever knocks at the door continually, it will be opened to him.'

Rabia, hearing him one day, said:

'How long will you say: 'It will be opened'? The door has has never been shut.'

To the Sufi, worship means knowledge. Through knowledge he attains sight.

Ibn Arabi

On the day of battle it is the slender horse-not the lumbering ox-that will be of use.

Saadi

Ordinary human love is capable of raising man to the experience of real love.

Jami

A camel is stronger than a man; an elephant is larger; a lion has greater valour; cattle eat more than man; birds are more virile. Man was made for the purpose of learning.

Al-Ghazali

The aim of a book may be to instruct,

Yet you can also use it as a pillow;

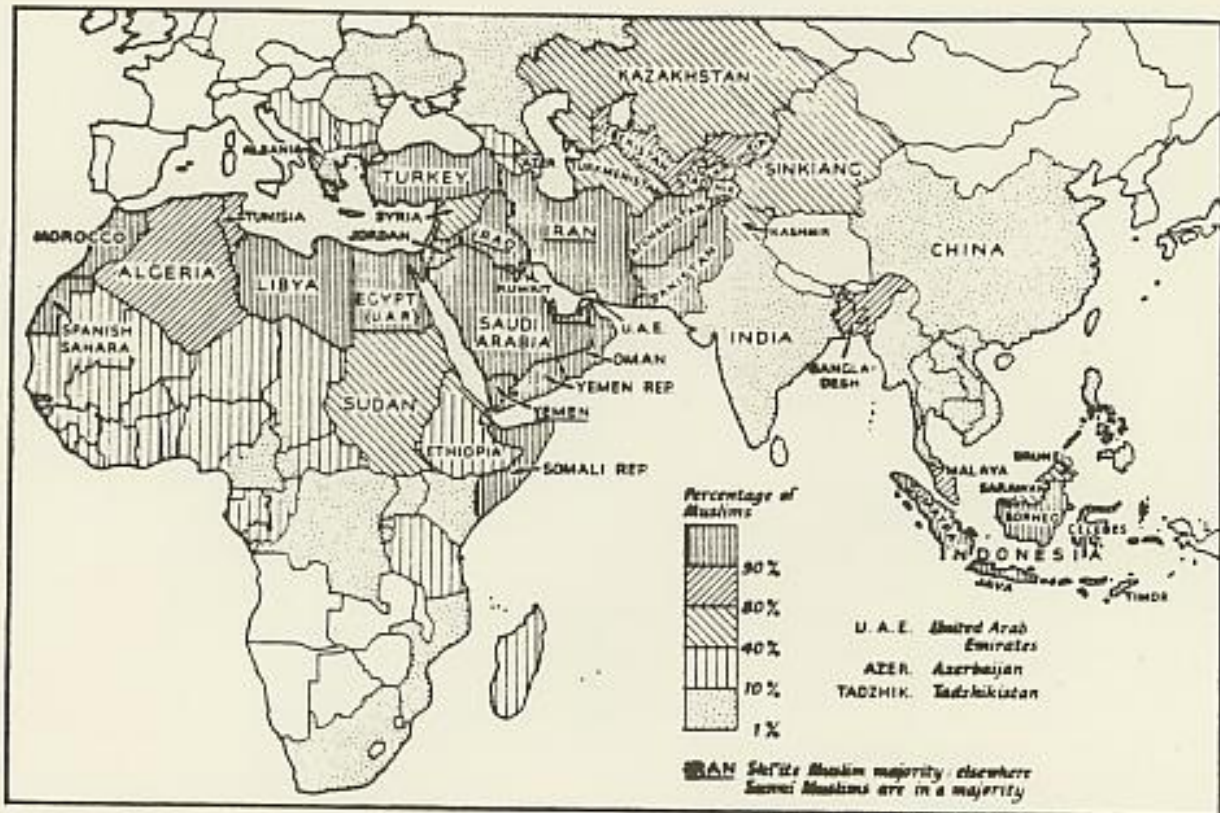
Although its object is to give knowledge, direction, profit.

Rumi

When we are dead, seek not our tomb in the earth, but find it in the hearts of men.

Rumi

DEMOGRAPHICS OF ISLAM



Today, approximately one in five persons on the planet is Muslim. Of those, one out of every five is Arabic. Out of over 200 nations in the world, the majority of people in 57 of those nations are Muslims. The following represents a comparative demographic analysis of adherents of the world's major religious traditions:

Tradition	Followers (000,000)	%
Christianity	1,000	38.5%
Islam	700	27.2
Hinduism	500	19.3
Confucianism	275	10.6
Shintoism	63	2.4
Taoism	30	1.2
Judaism	15	.5
Sikhism	8	.3
	2,591	100.0%

FAITH IN ACTIONISLAM: SURRENDER TO GOD'S WILL

"Lo, the religion of Allah is 'al-Islam'
(the Surrender) to His will and guidance."
Koran 3:19

SIX TYPES OF PEOPLE

- 1) True Muslims - Faith in Allah, His Attributes, His Law (Shariah) the Day of Judgment, and His Prophet, Muhammad.
- 2) Muslims - Faith in God, Submission to His Will
- 3) Nominal Muslims - Half-hearted faith
- 4) Kafir - Concealers of the True Faith
- 5) Criminals - Oppressors of the Faith

ARTICLES OF FAITH (DIN)

- 1) Belief in and submission to Allah, as represented by the Prophet
"He unto Whom belongeth the sovereignty of the heavens and the earth, He hath chosen no son nor hath He any partner in the sovereignty."
Koran 25:2
- 2) Belief in Angels
"The Apostle and Gabriel went their way until they arrived at the temple in Jerusalem. There he found Abraham, Moses, and Jesus among a company of the Prophets. The Apostle (Muhammad) acted as their leader in prayer...After the completion of my business in Jerusalem a ladder was brought to me finer than any I have ever seen...all the angels who met me when I entered smiled in welcome, except one, Malik, the Keeper of Hell...'Will you show me Hell?'. Thereupon he removed its covering and the flames blazed high into the air until I thought they would consume everything...Then I was taken up to the second heaven and there were the two maternal cousins, Jesus and John...Then to the seventh heaven and there was a man sitting on a throne at the gate of the Immortal Mansion...This was my father Abraham."
Hadith
- 3) Belief in Allah's Books
"He hath revealed unto thee (Muhammad) the Scripture with truth confirming that which was revealed before it, even as He revealed the Torah and the Gospel."
Koran 3:3
- 4) Belief in Allah's Prophets
"We gave it unto Abraham against his folk...And We bestowed upon him Isaac and Jacob; each of them We guided, and Noah did We guide aforetime; and of his seed We guided David and Solomon and Job and Joseph and Moses and Aaron...And Zacharia and John and Jesus and Elias. Each one of them was of the righteous... and We chose them and guided them unto a straight path...Those are they unto whom We gave the Scripture and command and prophethood. But if these disbelieve therein, then indeed We shall entrust it to a people who will not be disbelievers therein."
Koran 6:84-90

ARTICLES OF FAITH (DIN) ctd5) Belief in the Day of Judgment and Life After Death

"On that Day no intercession availeth save that of him unto whom the Beneficent hath given leave and whoso He accepteth.

"On that day neither the riches nor the progeny of those who disbelieve will aught avail them with Allah. They will be fuel for the fire."

Koran 3:10

"And the Book is placed, and thou seest the guilty fearful of that which is therein, and they say:

'What kind of a book is this that leaveth not a small thing nor a great thing but hath counted it! And they find all that they did confronting them, and thy Lord wrongeth no one."

Koran 18:50

"And Allah hath awarded them for all that they endured, A Garden and silk attire;

Reclining therein upon couches, they will find there neither the heat of the sun, nor bitter cold.

The shade thereof is close upon them and the clustered fruits thereof bow down.

Goblets of silver are brought round for them...

Their raiment will be fine green silk and gold embroidery. Bracelets of silver they will wear.

Their Lord will slake their thirst with a pure drink.

Lo! this is a reward for you. Your endeavor upon earth hath found acceptance.

Koran 76:12-22

FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM (IBADAT)1) Recitation of the Shahadah

"La ilaha illa Allah" (In the whole universe, there is absolutely no being worthy to be worshipped other than Allah,)

"Muhammad rasul Allah" (And Muhammad is His Prophet.)

2) (Salat) Prayer five times a day towards Mecca

"O ye who believe! When the call is heard for the prayer of the day of congregation, haste unto the remembrance (dikr) of Allah and leave your trading...

"And when the prayer is ended, then disperse in the land and seek of Allah's bounty,..."

Koran 62:9,10

3) (Sawm) Fasting in the month of Ramadhan

"O ye who believe! There is prescribed for you the fast, as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may ward off evil..."

Koran 2:183

4) (Zakah) Almsgiving

"Lo! those who give alms, and lend unto Allah a goodly loan, it will be doubled for them, and theirs will be a rich reward."

Koran 57:18

5) (Hajj) Pilgrimage to Mecca

"And pilgrimage to the House (Kabah) is a duty required by Allah for those who can find a way thither."

Koran 3:97

THE LAW OF ISLAM (SHARIAH)

The Law of Islam represents its ethical code of conduct. The source of this Law is as follows:

- 1) the words of Allah, the Koran,
- 2) the words and deeds of the Prophet, (Sunna, the Way of the Prophet) as discerned in the Hadith
- 3) the consensus of the community (Ijma), as discerned by the jurists
- 4) and analogy, using the Koran and Sunna to draw general principles of behavior (Qiyas)

Four Basic Schools of Thought regarding Shariah survive today, which are as follows:

- 1) Fiqh-e-Hanafi, followed in Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, India, and Central Asia.
- 2) Fiqh-e-Shafi'i, followed in the East Indies, lower Egypt, eastern Africa, southern Arabia, and southern India.
- 3) Fiqh-e-Malik, followed in North Africa, upper Egypt, and eastern Arabia
- 4) Fiqh-e-Hanbali, followed in Saudi Arabia

Each school stresses each of the sources of Shariah differently, coming up with different interpretations of the detail (Fiqh) of conduct. All are considered acceptable by the Muslim community.

Certain ethical standards are common to all schools; the following represent some of the common injunctions of Islam:

- 1) Acknowledging that there is no god whatsoever but God-
"Thy Lord hath decreed, that ye worship none save Him..."
- 2) Honoring and respecting parents-
"My Lord! Have mercy on them both as they did care for me when I was little."
- 3) Respecting the rights of others-
"Give the kinsmen his due, and the needy, and the wayfarer, ...speak unto them a reasonable word."
- 4) Avoid killing except for justifiable cause-
"Slay not the life which Allah hath forbidden save with right. Whoso is slain wrongfully, We have given power unto his heir, but let him not commit excess in slaying."
- 5) Dealing justly and equitably-
"Fill the measure when ye measure, and weigh with a right balance; that is proper, and better in the end."
- 6) Being pure of heart and mind-
"Your Lord is best aware of what is in your minds. If ye are righteous, then lo! He was ever Forgiving unto those who turn unto Him."
- 7) Being humble and unpretentious-
"And walk not in the earth exultant. Lo! thou canst not rend the earth, nor canst thou stretch to the height of the hills..."

Ninety-Nine Names of

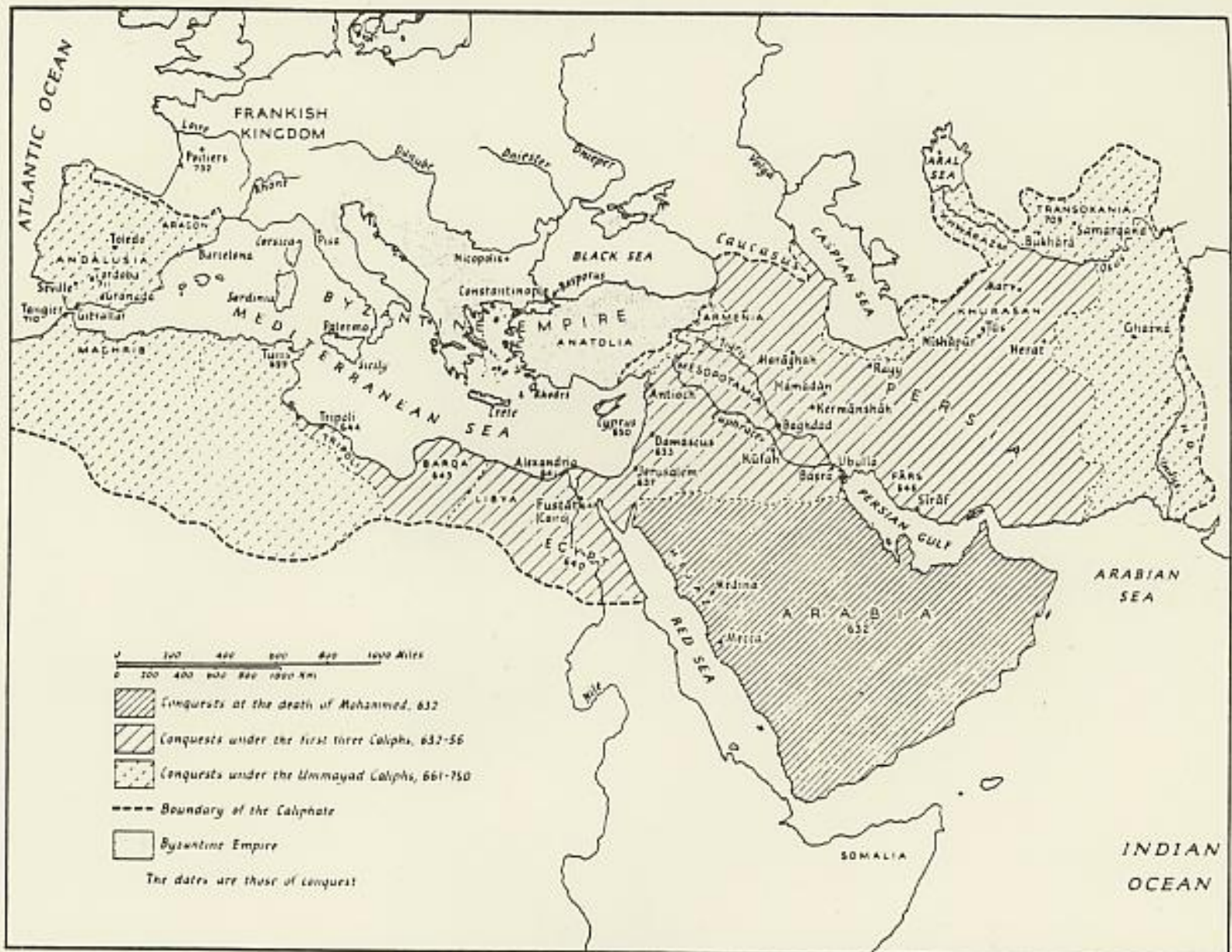
ALLAH



The Beautiful Names

AR-RAḤMĀN The Beneficent	AL-MUHAYMIN The Protector	AL-MUṢAWWIR The Fashioner	AL-'ALĪM The All-Knowing	AL-BĀ'ITH The Resurrector	AL-WALĪ The Protecting Friend	AL-AWWAL The First	AT-TAWWĀB The Acceptor of Repentance
AR-RAḤĪM The Merciful	AL-'AZĪZ The Mighty	AL-GHAFFĀR The Forgiver	AL-QĀBĪḌ The Constructor	ASH-SHAHĪD The Witness	AL-ḤAMĪD The Praiseworthy	AL-ĀKHĪR The Last	AL-MUNTAQĪM The Avenger
AL-MALĪK The Sovereign Lord	AL-JABBĀR The Compeller	AL-QAḤḤĀR The Subduer	AL-BĀSĪṬ The Expander	AL-ḤĀQQ The Truth	AL-MUḤṢĪ The Reckoner	AḶ-ZĀHIR The Manifest	AL-'AFUW The Pardoner
AL-QUDDŪS The Holy	AL-MUTAKABBĪR The Majestic	AL-WAḤḤĀB The Bestower	AL-KHĀFIḌ The Abaser	AL-WAKĪL The Trustee	AL-MUBDĪ The Originator	AL-BĀṬĪN The Hidden	AR-RA'ŪF The Compassionate
AS-SALĀM The Source of Peace	AL-KHĀLIQ The Creator	AR-RAZZĀQ The Provider	AR-RĀFI' The Exalter	AL-QAWI The Most Strong	AL-MU'ID The Resistor	AL-WĀLI The Governor	MĀLIK-UL-MULK The Eternal Owner of Sovereignty
AL-MU'MĪN The Guardian of Faith	AL-BĀRI' The Evolver	AL-FATTĀḤ The Opener	AL-MU'IZZ The Honorer	AL-MATĪN The Firm One	AL-MUḤYĪ The Giver of Life	AL-MUTA'ĀLI The Most Exalted	DHŪL-JALĀL-WAL-IKRĀM The Lord of Majesty and Honor
						AL-BARR The Source of All Goodness	AL-MUQSIṬ The Equitable
AL-MUZĪLL The Dishonorer	AL-KHABĪR The Aware	AL-KABĪR The Most Great	AR-RAQĪB The Watchful	AL-JĀME' The Gatherer	AL-ḤĀDĪ The Guide	AL-MUMĪT The Creator of Death	AL-AḤAD The One
AS-SAMĪ' The All-Hearing	AL-ḤALĪM The Forbearing One	AL-ḤAFĪZ The Preserver	AL-MUJĪB The Responsive	AL-GHANĪ The Self-Sufficient	AL-BADĪ' The Incomparable	AL-ḤAYY The Alive	AṢ-ṢAMAD The Eternal
AL-BAṢĪR The All-Seeing	AL-'AZĪM The Great One	AL-MUQĪT The Maintainer	AL WĀSI' The All-Embracing	AL-MUGHNĪ The Enricher	AL-BĀQĪ The Everlasting	AL-QAYYŪM The Self-Subsisting	AL-QĀDIR The Able
AL-ḤAKAM The Judge	AL-GHAFŪR The All-Forgiving	AL-ḤASĪB The Reckoner	AL-ḤAKĪM The Wise	AL-MĀNĪ' The Preventer	AL-WĀRITH The Supreme Inheritor	AL-WĀJID The Finder	AL-MUQTADIR The Powerful
AL-'ADL The Just	ASH-SHAKŪR The Appreciative	AL-JALĪL The Sublime One	AL-WADŪD The Loving	AḌ-ḌARR The Distresser	AR-RASHID The Guide to the Right Path	AL-MĀJĪD The Noble	AL-MUQADDIM The Expediter
AL-LATĪF The Subtle One	AL-'ALĪ The Most High	AL-KARĪM The Generous One	AL-MAJĪD The Most Glorious One	AN-NĀFI' The Propitious	AṢ-ṢABŪR The Patient	AL-WĀḤĪD The Unique	AL-MU'AKḤḤIR The Delayer
				AN-NŪR The Light			

CONQUESTS OF ISLAM



The personal faith of Muhammad and his Companions provided the catalyst for a mighty outpouring of Arabs from the confines of the peninsula over most of the Mediterranean basin and southwest Asia. Within less than a century after Muhammad's death in 632, Arab warriors reached the Atlantic in Morocco and the Indus River in what is now Pakistan. In 710 they crossed the Straits of Gibraltar into Spain. Arab calvarymen, attracted by the rich abbeys of Gaul were soon raiding as far as the Loire and Rhone valleys. The extension of Islam into Southeast Asia came largely as the result of Sufi missionary work in the 13th century.

THE SUFI MOVEMENTTHE SUFI PHILOSOPHY

- 1) There is one God, the Eternal, the Only Being.
- 2) There is one Brotherhood, the human brotherhood, which unites the children of earth indiscriminately in the fatherhood of God.
- 3) There is one Master, the Guiding Spirit of all souls, who constantly leads his followers towards the light.
- 4) There is one Religion, the unswerving progress in the right direction towards the ideal, which fulfils the life's purpose of every soul.
- 5) There is one Holy Book, the sacred manuscript of nature the only scripture which can enlighten the reader.
- 6) There is one Law, the Law of Reciprocity, which can be observed by a selfless conscience together with a sense of awakened justice.
- 7) There is one Moral Principle, the love which springs forth from self-denial, and blooms in deeds of beneficence.
- 8) There is one Object of Praise, the beauty which uplifts the heart of its worshipper through all aspects from the seen to the Unseen.
- 9) There is one Truth, the true knowledge of our being within and without, which is the essence of all wisdom.
- 10) There is one Path, the annihilation of the false ego in the real, which raises the mortal to immortality and in which resides all perfection.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SUFI MOVEMENT

- 1) To realize and spread the knowledge of Unity, the religion of love and wisdom, so that the bias of faiths and beliefs may of itself fall away, the human heart may overflow with love, and all hatred caused by distinctions and differences may be rooted out.
- 2) To discover the light and power latent in man, the secret of all religion, the power of mysticism, and the essence of philosophy, without interfering with customs or belief.
- 3) To help to bring the world's two opposite poles, East and West, closer together by the interchange of thought and ideals, that the Universal Brotherhood may form of itself, and man may see with man beyond the narrow national and racial boundaries.

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